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U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

# MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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## MOLYBDENUM IN NOVEMBER 1996

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate decreased 6% in November 1996 compared with that of the previous month and was 5% less than in November 1995, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Producer molybdenum stocks in concentrate, oxide, and other product forms were 8,930 metric tons at the beginning of 1996 and 5,820 metric tons at the end of November.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys are U.S. production, shipments, and stocks of molybdenum concentrates and materials, plus U.S. consumption by end use of molybdenum in November 1996. Also included are trade data for October 1996. During November, Platt's Metals Week U.S. monthly

average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$5.401 per kilogram (\$2.450 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$8.818 per kilogram (\$4.000 per pound) and that for dealer ferromolybdenum was \$11.155 per kilogram (\$5.060 per pound).

For the week ending January 31, 1997, Platt's Metals Week U.S. average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.960 per kilogram (\$2.250 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$10.306 per kilogram (\$4.675 per pound) and that for ferromolybdenum was \$11.904 per kilogram (\$5.400 per pound).

TABLE 1  
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATE STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

Item	1995 p/	1996		
		October	November	Year to date 2/
Production	58,000	4,670	4,410	50,900
Shipments: 3/				
Domestic	13,700	1,330	1,280	14,700
Export	18,600	1,430	1,110	18,400

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

3/ As reported by producers.

TABLE 2  
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS  
IN NOVEMBER 1996 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdic oxides	Ferro molyb- denum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molyb- denum scrap	Other	Total
Steel:						
Carbon	406	261	--	--	W	667
Stainless and heat-resisting	2,180	106	--	--	W	2,290
Full alloy	2,130	1,140	--	--	36	3,310
High-strength low-alloy	551	248	--	--	--	799
Tool	892	45	--	--	W	937
Cast irons	17	496	--	--	W	513
Superalloys	816	W	--	334	388	1,540
Alloys:						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	W	W
Other alloys 3/	--	W	--	5	W	5
Mill products made from metal power	--	--	--	--	W	W
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	13	--	--	13
Catalysts	773	--	W	--	W	773
Other	W	--	--	--	W	W
Miscellaneous and unspecified	10	182	759	--	1,830	2,780
Total	7,770	2,480	772	339	2,260	13,600
Stocks, November 30, 1996	4,790	1,630	88	506	8,220	15,200

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Miscellaneous and unspecified."

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium molybdate.

3/ Includes magnetic and nonferrous alloys.

TABLE 3  
U.S. REPORTED PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

Product	1995 p/	1996		
		October	November	Year to date 2/
Gross production	46,000	4,700	3,240	41,900
Molybdenum product 3/ used to make other products	23,100	2,150	2,340	21,700
Shipments	24,000	2,630	1,280	22,200

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

3/ Includes molybdic oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 4  
U. S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORE AND CONCENTRATE  
(Including roasted concentrate), BY COUNTRY 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1995 p/	1996		
		September	October	Year to date
Australia	650	80	76	530
Belgium	103,000	11,000	7,290	112,000
Brazil	1,580	2	8	204
Canada	7,590	128	113	2,250
Chile	62,900	6,850	10,000	55,900
China	--	2,710	2,450	9,300
France	--	--	--	56
Germany	7,700	544	473	5,050
India	--	387	199	586
Italy	1,370	226	1,760	3,220
Japan	54,900	3,170	3,560	42,000
Korea, Republic of	2	--	--	--
Mexico	40,400	3,860	5,850	49,000
Netherlands	112,000	3,570	6,060	52,900
Singapore	1	--	--	--
Spain	121	--	--	--
Sweden	6,300	114	1,020	3,700
Switzerland	324	--	--	--
Taiwan	6	--	--	--
United Kingdom	47,400	3,690	2,220	55,800
Venezuela	5	--	--	--
Total	446,000	36,400	41,100	393,000

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5  
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1995 p/	1996		
		September	October	Year to date 2/
Australia	8	--	--	--
Canada	2,140	394	247	1,950
China	2	--	--	--
Egypt	9	--	--	--
Japan	1,050	--	13	1,150
Korea, Republic of	21	--	--	19
Malaysia	223	--	--	372
Mexico	2,010	217	51	998
Netherlands	737	--	--	--
Singapore	--	15	85	507
Spain	234	--	--	12
Taiwan	485	--	--	--
Venezuela	27	--	--	8
Total	6,920	626	396	5,020

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Hundred kilograms unless otherwise specified)

Material	1995			1996		
	January-December			January-October		
	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (thousands)	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrates roasted	74,300	47,800	\$73,400	67,700	46,300	\$34,300
Ore and concentrates other	15,000	7,930	8,040	351	210	169
Molybdenum chemicals:						
Oxides and hydroxides	9,180	NA	11,400	8,530	NA	6,320
Molybdates of ammonium	3,450	1,860	2,880	5,720	3,040	4,700
Molybdates (all others)	540	420	285	823	362	495
Molybdenum orange	6,740	NA	2,270	15,500	NA	4,810
Mixtures of inorganic compounds	6	5	130	--	--	--
Ferromolybdenum	65,500	41,900	74,600	70,000	44,100	49,700
Molybdenum powders	1,950	1,460	5,590	966	853	2,610
Molybdenum unwrought	1,310	1,020	3,560	791	741	2,060
Molybdenum waste and scrap	4,530	4,300	6,310	6,470	5,960	9,170
Molybdenum wrought	--	--	--	--	--	--
Molybdenum wire	11	NA	277	18	NA	285
Molybdenum other	27	NA	993	34	NA	891
Total	183,000	107,000	190,000	177,000	102,000	115,000

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.